




CITY OF BURLINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 16, 2012
TO: Board of Finance
FROM: Mari Steinbach, Director 
RE: **Waterfront Skatepark Update**

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Skatepark Status

The Burlington Skatepark at Waterfront Park has not opened for the 2012 summer season and remains closed indefinitely due to the continued declining conditions of the equipment. DPR closed the facility last fall without the intention of reopening the facility, but rather anticipating the beginning of construction of the Waterfront North Redevelopment project - of which the replacement Skatepark is one component.

For now, DPR requests that users of the Park cooperate with the closure and refrain from entering and skating within the site. Staff has also developed signage and an explanation of the closure that is posted at the entrance of the facility.

Transition Skatepark Access

To uphold the requirements of the state and federal grant funding, the City has since been instructed to maintain Skatepark services through the duration of construction of the replacement Skatepark facility. Even if the Waterfront North redevelopment project is stalled for any length of time, the Department feels a responsibility to re-open and operate the existing skatepark amenity.

DPR staff worked with VTRANS staff and David Wood (the builder of the existing Skatepark equipment) to evaluate cost-effective short-term solutions. After intensive investigation, all parties have agreed that the existing equipment can be repaired, thus extending the life of the existing facility for 1-3 seasons, with some minor repairs before each season.

On-site assessment estimates that the underlying structure is 80% sound and that a full re-screw of the entire park, replacement of some support structure, and reconfiguration of the middle hip ramp, will allow it to function up to and during the initial phases of construction. The cost estimate to repair three existing features is \$7,500.

Other options have been explored, including the purchase of new "temporary" equipment. The repair of the existing equipment is the most cost-effective solution with the shortest timeline for implementation.

Funding

Repair funds (\$7,500) may be drawn from the existing FY12 Penny for Parks Waterfront North/Skatepark allocation (\$150,000), leaving a balance of \$142,500. Both Parks and Recreation and CEDO Department staff are in favor of this use

A motion to approve the recommendation of the Penny for Parks investment in the repair of the existing Skatepark facility and the reallocation of FY12 PFP funds toward this project was carried unanimously by the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC 05/15/2012).

Staff Recommendation

DPR recommends Board of Finance support and approval of the \$7,500 reallocation of FY12 PFP funding to be utilized to repair and extend the life of the existing Skatepark facility.